



EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

"With Pride We Serve"

PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2012

Holiday Season-Personal Safety & Crime Prevention

With the arrival of the Holiday Season, members of the Easton Police Department find it necessary to remind everyone of the need to practice crime prevention. This is the time of year that presents some of the greatest opportunity for criminal activity. Whenever there is a greater opportunity for crime, there is increased potential for personal injury during a criminal act. The following suggestions are in addition to the basic crime prevention tips normally offered.

- **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.** Maintain your personal space and prevent yourself from being in close-quarters or against other individuals. Avoid close contact with persons who appear to be concealing their face-even in extreme cold weather. This is especially important while you are handling money or valuables (gifts).
- If you observe suspicious activity and/or persons near banks or ATM machines, avoid using the facility or return later.
- Avoid shopping alone or with only small children. A single adult with small children can often be more vulnerable. During those occasions, you will be less likely to defend your property over the welfare of the children. This also places the children at risk.
- Park in well lit, open areas if possible and prevent from having both hands occupied. If both hands are holding packages, you may have difficulty defending yourself or entering your vehicle in a rush.
- Keep cell phones in your pants or jacket pockets. If there is a need to make an emergency call it will be easier to locate. Today's cell phones are a very valuable tool. In addition to making calls, you can capture images of perpetrators, suspicious activity, and crimes in progress. Additionally many phones store important contacts, addresses, and other vital information that is useful during an investigation.
- Avoid carrying cell phones in purses. Purses are frequently stolen from shopping carts or while it's been briefly set aside.
- Keep close supervision of purses. Never leave it unattended or easily assessable from a shopping cart.
- Attempt to keep items such as driver's license and credit cards closer to you, such as in your pockets. Once these items are taken you are exposing yourself to greater concerns. Additionally the criminal may now know where you live.
- Be helpful and answers pleas for assistance when police seek out witnesses of a crime. Not doing so increases your risk of becoming a victim from the same criminal. Many crimes will continue as a spree until the suspect is captured. Don't risk being a future victim because you choose to not get involved.

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